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Uncle Sam's Flower Garden

BY

Mrs. W. H. PRESTON.

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Eldridge Entertainment House
Franklin, Ohio

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE

Franklin, Ohio

UNCLE SAM'S FLOWER GARDEN

An Allegorical Temperance Play
for Children.

By Mrs. W. H. Preston.

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Uncle Sam's Flower Garden.

Scene—A Garden.

Decorate with flowers, flags and crepe paper. One chair is draped with a flag, one chair is draped in white. The crown for the Goddess of Liberty should hang on the chair in white.

(*Enter Uncle Sam, looks around, seats himself in flag draped chair. He should be about 13 years old, dressed in Uncle Sam costume.*)

Uncle Sam. Well, I have come out here to rest awhile. This is a beautiful place. So full of fresh air, fragrant with the breath of flowers. Our world is full of beauty and loveliness, but the more I think of her wealth and power, the more I am convinced that much yet remains to be done to make our country what she is, only in name "Free." The evils of drink are everywhere and the real flowers of this fair land are being destroyed by the thousand, year by year. Men, women and children are sacrificed on the altar of the Demon, Alcohol. (*Rising and lifting flag.*) When I look at this flag with it's stars and stripes, and know it is the emblem of our country, I am filled with sorrow because of those under it's banner enslaved by the curse of drink.

(*Singing outside, girls voices.*)

"And the Star Spangled banner,
In Triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free,
And the Home of the brave."

Uncle Sam. What means this magic spell? Did I not hear some voices singing, "O'er the land of the free?" O would I could say as much, but the shackles of rum must be broken ere the flowers, who are the men, women and children of this country will be free to grow into their full beauty as God intended. I am bowed down, my heart is heavy. I will rest awhile. (*Sleeps, sits in flag draped chair.*)

(*Enter nine girls representing Truth, Courage, Purity, Honesty, Temperance, Humility, Love, Kindness, Mercy. The first three are dressed in red crepe paper or cheese cloth. The next in white, the next in blue. Each carry a flag about a foot long. As they enter Uncle Sam is observed. They form a semi-circle around him.*)

Truth. Poor Uncle Sam is so tired. Let us speak quietly so we do not waken him.

Temperance. He is grieved over our Country's welfare.

Courage. We will help to right the wrong.

All. (*With gesture to Uncle Sam.*) Sleep on and take your rest.

Purity. We are the flowers of our Country. Our mission is to help Uncle Sam rid this country of drink.

Truth. I am the strong plant Truth. Without it nothing can stand. Not even our Country.

Honesty. I am the flower of Honesty. Our nation is built on it.

Courage. I am Courage, the greatest and strongest flower needed to right temptations.

Purity. There is no sweeter flower in Uncle Sam's garden than the fragrant flower of Purity.

Temperance. I stand for total abstinence for all mankind. I am a strong plant and cannot be up-rooted.

Humility. I grow in a cool shady place, doing my work quietly. Humility is a danity plant with a sweet odor.

Love. The flower of Love, I am. I grow in all soils. In any country, at all seasons of the year. Yes, Love is the crowning flower of the garden.

Kindness. I, too, am a modest flower. Kindness is the plant all desire.

Mercy. This flower is so much like love that they can scarcely be told one from the other. We have a great work to do. We must help Uncle Sam. Without us he can do nothing.

Honesty. Let us resolve today to go forth at his bidding and by uniting his forces we can bring about National Prohibition.

(*All march to front of platform and sing one verse of America. After singing march around in semi-circle as at first.*

Uncle Sam. (*Rising and rubbing his eyes.*) Have I been dreaming? Yes, here they are, the very beautiful creatures I have been dreaming about.

All. Uncle Sam, we have come to help you.

Courage. Yes, Uncle Sam, Courage is ever ready to help you.

Uncle Sam. You shall help me. While I slept I dreamed this old flag would wave over a free people. I waken to find my dream coming true.

All. Yes, Uncle Sam, it takes Truth, Honesty, Courage, Purity, Temperance, Humility, Love, Kindness, and Mercy to make the old flag free. (*Each one speaks her own name in the above sentence.*)

All join in singing two verses of "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean." Just as they finish enter Prohibition and Goddess of Liberty. Prohibition wears a cap made of red, white and blue bunting. A scarf of the same with the word "Prohibition" on it. Goddess of Liberty should wear a long white dress with gold or silver stars on it. A scarf of red, white and blue and carry a flag much larger than the rest. Prohibition may carry a flag. They should each be about twelve years of age.)

(*Uncle Sam greets them as they enter. Each gives the soldiers salute. He escorts them to the throne. Prohibition standing on one side, Uncle Sam on the other, while Liberty is in the center.*)

All. Welcome Goddess of Liberty and Prohibition. We are glad to see you.

Honesty. Yes, Liberty, we love our flag country too much to see it cursed with rum. All the flowers are glad to have you come to set us free.

Prohibition. Uncle Sam, Liberty and I have had a long, hard and tiresome journey. We have crossed desert places. We have encountered wild beasts and

reptiles. We have seen into homes where little children are ragged and hungry. We have seen wives and mothers weep over loved ones who have fallen on account of drink. We have seen homes made wretched, hearts and lives saddened, and the best men brought to sin and disgrace by the liquor habit, but thanks be to you and these beautiful flowers, we are now ready to proclaim freedom from all that will intoxicate and to crown our Goddess of Liberty. (*Uncle Sam places crown on head of Liberty.*)

Uncle Sam. This is the dawn of a new day. May you never cease to wear this crown. It stands for love to God, love to home and love to all mankind.

Liberty. The Goddess of Liberty rejoices to see all the brightest and best flowers in Uncle Sam's garden gathered here today. Long may they live and grow and bloom, till this old world is brought out of darkness and the Demon Drink driven from the land.

Liberty. (*Recites*)

THE BATTLE IS ON.

Did they finish the fight that day,
When the Liberty Bell was rung?
Did they Silence the noise of war,
When Liberty's triumph was sung?
Was Freedom made Sovereign indeed,
And the Banner of Freedom unfurled?
A battle has raged since the world was new
A battle is on! God calleth for you!

There is woe in our broad, brave land
Though we shout for victories won;
Wide trenches are heaped with our dead.
Though our banners flash in the sun;
For the fight came not to a close
When the Bell rung its news afar;
Over all our hurrahs and acclaim,
Still echo the horrors of war.
This battle has waged since the world was new,
This battle is God's! God calleth for you!

Wherever the adder of drink
Stings body and soul to the death,

Wherever the fumes of the cup
Mix woe with Man's God-given breath—
There charges the foe, and there fall
Our dearest, our best and our brave.
Finished not was the fight that day,
For America harbors the slave—
The slave of the death dealing still,
The slave of the drunkard's wild woe.
America's danger to-day
Emboldens America's foe.
Then strike for the battle is God's!
Strike deep as you cherish your own!
In the name of our God smite the foe,
Till Liberty taketh her throne!

Temperance. (*recites*)

BONNY FLAG.

A song for the flag, the bonny, bonny flag
With its stripes of red and white.
Its bit of sky-blue, with the stars peeping through.
It will brighten the darkest night.

Hurrah for the flag, the bonny, bonny flag,
We will sing its colors fair,
We love the pure and true, so choose the red, white and blue,
And we will follow it everywhere.

Hurrah for the flag, the bonny, bonny flag,
Now that Liberty has come, to seal old Whiskey's doom,
We will love her stars and stripes more and more,
That will float over our land from shore to shore.

(*Enter Little Temperance Girl.*)

All. Here comes the little Temperance Girl!

(*Temperance should be dressed all in white. She carries a white flag. She steps to the front of the platform and recites.*)

A little Temperance girl, am I,
Here's my banner see it fly!

May it wave o'er our land and sea
Till from drink we are set free
If you listen we will try
To give you our rally cry.

(*She steps back in line with those in white.*)

All. Prohibition time has come,
Down with rum! Down with rum!
He's our foe! He's our foe!
Go King Alcohol! Go! Go! Go!

(*Make gesture with right hand three times as the word "go" is spoken.*

(*All march around waving flags and singing one or two verses of Star Spangled Banner.*) *If held at night can have a tableau with red lights.*

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